



Wisconsin's Runoff Management Rules

NR 155

Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement and Storm Water Management Grant Program

NR 155 is part of 8 Department of Natural Resources rules that address runoff pollution (also known as nonpoint source pollution), the major cause of polluted waters in Wisconsin and the United States

Complete versions of the Runoff Management rules can be obtained by visiting the DNR Runoff Management Program Web page (<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/index.htm>) or by contacting:

***Wisconsin DNR
Runoff Management/
WT 2
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NR 155 is a new rule. It contains policies and procedures for administering the Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement and Storm Water Management Grant Program authorized under Section 281.66, Wisconsin Statutes. The goal of this grant program is to achieve water quality standards, minimize flooding, protect groundwater, coordinate urban nonpoint source management activities with the municipal storm water discharge permit program, and implement the non-agricultural nonpoint source performance standards under NR 151.

Governmental units, including cities, counties, villages, towns, tribal governments, regional planning commissions, and special purpose districts (such as lake, sewerage, and sanitary districts) are eligible for these grants. Project areas must be characterized as "urban" in order to be eligible for funding. For the purposes of this program, an urban project area is one that is a commercial land use, an industrial land use (excluding non-municipal industrial areas regulated under NR 216), or an area with a population density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile. For construction projects, the area must meet the definition of an urban project area at the time of the application. For planning

projects, the area must meet either the definition at the time of application or be projected to meet the definition within a 20-year planning horizon. The DNR may also make grants to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents to manage storm water on selected campuses

To receive a cost-share grant to install management practices, the governmental unit with jurisdiction over the project area must assure adequate implementation of a comprehensive storm water management program. A municipality is eligible for grants under this program regardless of whether discharges from its separate storm sewer system require a NR 216 municipal storm water discharge permit.

Grants may be used to cost-share the design and installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), as well as to support a variety of local administrative and planning

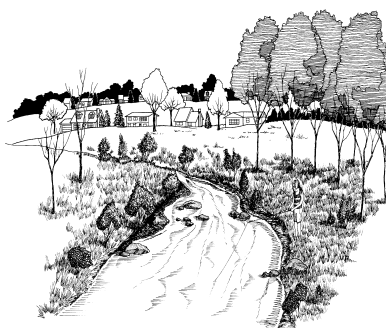


NR 155 Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement and Storm Water Management Grant Program

functions. Construction of BMPs such as storm water detention ponds, streambank and shoreline stabilization, infiltration systems, storm water wetlands, and high-efficiency street sweeping is cost-shared at 50 percent. Land acquisition and acquisition of easements needed to install these practices is also cost-shared at 50 percent. Technical assistance activities such as municipal storm water planning, municipal ordinance development, development of municipal storm water utilities, and development and implementation of information and education programs are cost-shared at 70 percent. BMP design costs may be cost-shared at 50 to 70 percent, depending on the source and availability of funds. The DNR may, if necessary, impose a funding limitation on the amount that can be awarded for any specific project.

Governmental units awarded a grant enter into a contractual agreement with the DNR. Grant recipients must comply with program conditions,

provide any local portion of the project costs they have agreed to cover, and install and maintain all BMPs to which they have agreed for 10 years. A governmental unit using these grant funds to provide assistance to private



landowners is required to enter into a similar contractual agreement with the landowner.

As required by statute, the DNR will select projects for funding by using the competitive scoring system set forth in the rule. The DNR will score and select projects in each year that sufficient funds are available. The scoring system considers the following factors: fiscal accountability and cost-effectiveness; project evaluation and monitoring strategy; evidence of local

support and involvement; consistency with DNR water basin priorities; water quality need; extent of pollutant control; intent to achieve performance standards; consistency with other resource management plans; and coordination with other funding sources. The DNR will increase the project score for any applicant having a strong local storm water management implementation program. Projects will be consistent with DNR priorities established on a watershed or other geographic basis. The project's duration can last up to 2 years, unless the DNR grants an extension (limited to 1 year).

For information about the Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement and Storm Water Management Grant Program, contact Mary E. Wagner, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Runoff Management, WT/2, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608)266-9260.

